



page 11



page 10



page 5



page 12



page 14

# THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA Spectator

University Relations Publications  
300 PCO, Suite 370  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2500

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

IN THIS ISSUE

## THE FLOOD OF 2008

### WHAT HAPPENED?—page 1

Unprecedented flooding wreaked havoc on the UI campus

### WHO HELPED?—pages 4–5

Volunteers massed on the banks of the Iowa River to help protect the University

### WHAT'S NEXT?—pages 6–7

Reacting and reassessing: the University moves forward

### THE ACCIDENTAL ADMINISTRATOR—page 3

Wallace Loh returns to Iowa as the University's new provost

### THE AFTERMATH OF ANGOLAN CONFLICT—pages 8–9

Professor finds healing after years of war

### DEARLY BELOVED—page 13

UI research uncovers hindrances to newlyweds' happiness

# THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA Spectator

Volume 42 • Number 1 • Fall 2008



PHOTO BY TIM SCHOON

Fireworks launched from the University's Hubbard Park on July 4 lit the sky above Old Capitol as the flood waters of 2008 began to recede. The event—usually based in flooded City Park—offered a welcome taste of normalcy during a historic summer, and marked the fact that campus and community had, together, come through the flood with spirits intact.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA Spectator

Volume 42 • Number 1 • Fall 2008

The University of Iowa  
University Relations Publications  
300 PCO, Suite 370  
Iowa City, IA 52242-2500

[www.uiowa.edu/Spectator](http://www.uiowa.edu/Spectator)

**EDITOR** Linzee Kull McCray  
**DESIGNER** Kimberly Cooke  
**PHOTO EDITOR** Tim Schoon

Published by The University of Iowa for alumni and friends.

Readers who wish to change their mailing address for *Spectator* may call Alumni Records at 319-335-3297 or 800-469-2586, or e-mail [alumni-records@uiowa.edu](mailto:alumni-records@uiowa.edu).

## A River Ran Through It *The University's beloved waterway turned from friend to foe*

**F**or several weeks in June 2008, campus life revolved around the rising Iowa River on the University of Iowa campus.

As the waters swelled, students and faculty, neighbors and alumni, staff and strangers came together to build sandbag walls around buildings; pass documents to higher ground at the Main Library; and rescue artwork, costumes, musical instruments, and more on the arts campus.

It was an extraordinary effort to protect the cultural treasures, history, and knowledge at the heart of The University of Iowa.

Months later, parts of campus continue to recover. Floodwaters punished buildings and key utilities, scientific research, and performance spaces. But signs of progress

are evident across campus.

All fall classes proceed as scheduled. Although the auditorium remains closed, Hancher is presenting 17 performances around Iowa City this academic year. Students occupy the previously flooded Mayflower Residence Hall. And scholarly activities, cultural events, and creative work continue.

"We are a stronger, more vibrant University and University community today thanks to the thousands of people who have sacrificed and contributed so much over these past months," says President Sally Mason.

All told, the floods forced closure of 20 buildings; relocated scores of departments and offices; soaked athletic fields; and washed away untold research.

It was one of the most catastrophic events experienced on campus, with the Iowa River cresting three feet above levels reached during record flooding in 1993.

Above-average rainfalls led to rapidly rising river levels in late May and early June, putting University officials on alert. Guided by a Flood Emergency Response Plan and lessons learned during the 1993 flood, University teams worked fast to adjust to changing circumstances.

Sandbagging operations intensified as the situation grew more dire, and faculty, students, staff, and volunteers made plans to relocate threatened offices, research, books, and artwork. On June 10, the Coralville Reservoir topped the emergency spillway for the first time since 1993, and river levels rose for the

next five days, endangering nearly every building along its banks. On June 13, University officials made the unprecedented decision to suspend normal campus activities for a week to focus on flood preparation.

By the time the Iowa River crested on June 15, every at-risk campus area had been fortified—thanks to the tremendous volunteer effort. The UI Museum of Art collection, including Jackson Pollock's 8-by-20 foot *Mural*, was removed. About 10,000 feet of shelf space was cleared at the Main Library. Dozens of pianos and other instruments were rescued from the Voxman Music Building.

"We've all pulled together to meet this challenge," said Mason in June. "Mother Nature, I think, has thrown everything she could at us. And we fought back heroically."

When the floodwaters finally began to recede, they revealed mucky, musty classrooms, labs, offices, and auditoriums. In Hancher, water had risen from the basement, swamping more than a dozen rows of seats. In the Music Building, at least seven Steinway grand pianos, fifteen Steinway upright pianos, two harpsichords, several practice-type organs, and a Baroque organ sustained damage.

While challenges remain, cleanup has proceeded faster than expected. The inspiring, unprecedented efforts of so many people continue today, now focused on building a stronger, revitalized University of Iowa.

"I thank everyone who has been—and continues to be—part of our remarkable recovery," says Mason.

—MADLAINE JEROUSEK-SMITH

*Mid-June floodwaters surrounded the Art Building West (lower right), Museum of Art, and other buildings while breaching levees near the Iowa Memorial Union (top center).*



PHOTO BY TOM JORGENSEN

## For the Record

**“I’m always by the river and just happen to be capable of helping.”**

**STEVE MCGUIRE**, PROFESSOR OF ART EDUCATION IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, ON THE THREE INCIDENTS IN WHICH HE HAS RESCUED PEOPLE FROM THE IOWA RIVER DURING THE PAST 15 YEARS (*READER’S DIGEST*, SEPT. 2008).

**“When someone dies in Oxford, big funerals are expected, as are casseroles.”**

**STEPHEN BLOOM**, PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, ON A TRUISM HE LEARNED IN INTERVIEWS WITH THE PEOPLE OF OXFORD, IOWA, FOR THE BOOK *THE OXFORD PROJECT*, COAUTHORED WITH PETER FELDSTEIN, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF PHOTOGRAPHY (*WASHINGTON POST*, OCT. 5).

**“Our study suggests it doesn’t, and we think it’s important to share this evidence so people can use it to continue to support diversity in education.”**

**ANGELA ONWUACHI-WILLIG**, PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE OF LAW, ON A STUDY THAT CALLS INTO QUESTION THE COMMON ARGUMENT THAT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION HURTS THE PEOPLE IT WAS DESIGNED TO HELP (*CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION*, OCT. 8).

**“About the time American wages became stagnant (in the late 70s and early 80s) for most of the middle class, all of a sudden you could buy a car with no money down; you could buy a house with no money down. There [were] all sorts of ways to sell goods to people whose incomes weren’t going anyplace.”**

**KEVIN LEICHT**, PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES (*U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT*, OCT. 9).

**“A red flag should go up, and more screening should be considered beyond the routine.”**

**SANDRA RAMEY**, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, ON POLICE OFFICERS’ HIGHER RISK FOR CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE DUE TO CHRONIC STRESS, ACCORDING TO RECENT RESEARCH (*AMERICAN MEDICAL NEWS*, OCT. 20).

## Tippie College of Business Celebrates 150 Years of Business Education

Business education has been a part of the University of Iowa for 150 years, and the Tippie College of Business is celebrating that sesquicentennial.

“We’ve come a long way since the first business class was offered in the History Department in 1858,” says Curt Hunter, dean of the Tippie College of Business. “We’re now the largest and highest-ranked business college in the state, and we’re the largest educator of business leaders in Iowa. Certainly, that’s something to celebrate.”

Business education at Iowa traces its roots to a history class called Moral Philosophy offered in the spring of 1858. The class examined what was then known as political economy, which included elements of what would become economics, finance, and commerce.

Today, more than 14,000 Tippie alumni are living and working in Iowa, out of a total of more than 40,000 living alumni around the world.

## External Support Hits Another Record High

University of Iowa faculty, together with staff and students, generated an all-time record \$386.2 million in grants and contracts for UI research, education, and service during fiscal 2008, a 2.2 percent increase from 2007. The total exceeded one-third of a billion dollars for the seventh consecutive year and also marked the 22nd consecutive year in which Iowa has attracted more than \$100 million in external support.

## Intrastate Rivals Team Up for DNA Research

The University of Iowa and Iowa State University are pooling their resources to significantly enhance both institutions’ genetic research capabilities.

Each institution has purchased a massively parallel DNA sequencer, a state-of-the-art instrument capable of deciphering DNA sequences at the rate of millions to billions of bases in a single run. The highly sensitive technology uses an approach called single molecule detection with amplification, which helps researchers identify rare genetic variations that traditional approaches overlook. The two machines—each with unique advantages—will be available on a fee-for-service basis to researchers at both universities and to other institutions and private companies.

## Dental College Receives \$1.5 Million for Renovation

Delta Dental of Iowa will contribute \$1.5 million to help renovate the 35-year-old Dental Science Building that houses the UI College of Dentistry. The \$45-million multiyear renovation project will transform the building by updating and expanding clinical areas, increasing classroom and student space, and upgrading dental research facilities. The college educates more than 80 percent of the state’s dentists, and its general and specialty dental care clinics receive about 125,000 patient visits each year.

## Team Approach to Hypertension

Working together, physicians and pharmacists can more effectively control patients’ blood pressure, says Barry Carter, professor of clinical and hospital pharmacy at the College of Pharmacy.

An expert on hypertension, Carter develops models for collaboration between health professionals to target chronic diseases. A recent study placed pharmacists in medical clinics, where they worked closely with doctors to recommend blood pressure medication and strategies to help patients comply with treatment.

The approach controlled blood pressure in 89 percent of patients, compared to about 53 percent of patients in a control group where pharmacists didn’t make recommendations. Among patients with diabetes—which complicates hypertension treatment—about

82 percent of study participants got their blood pressure under control, compared to 23 percent of controls.

“In busy offices, physicians may have only a small window of time with each patient, and their immediate concerns take over,” Carter says. “These are complicated patients, and a team approach improves our ability to adjust their therapy and monitor their progress.”

## Notice Anything Different?

The *Spectator* staff hopes that you do. Rising postal rates have created a challenge for us, and our response has been to recreate *Spectator*. Thanks to the many wonderful readers who responded to last spring’s online *Spectator* survey, we learned you enjoy reading about University events and people. Our new format was designed both to reduce our mailing costs and provide shorter stories for busy readers. We’ll continue to note survey results (including your requests for an online version of *Spectator*) in the upcoming months. As always, we’d love to hear from you and welcome any and all feedback. You can reach us at 319-384-0044, by post at 300 PCO, Suite 370, Iowa City, IA 52242-2500, or by e-mail at [spectator@uiowa.edu](mailto:spectator@uiowa.edu).



**“Come all alums of Iowa and blend your voices true!”**—Hawkeye Marching Band members taught students the “Alma Mater” and other school songs during a Welcome Week block party to open the fall semester. The event drew hundreds to the President’s Residence—also the site for a leadership course taught by President Sally Mason this fall and celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the residence.

PHOTO BY TIM SCHOON

## Researcher to Investigate Knee Rehabilitations

New UI research could lead to more effective knee rehabilitation and determine which older adults with painful or stiff knee osteoarthritis will be most likely to benefit from particular interventions.

Neil Segal, assistant professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation in the Carver College of Medicine, received a five-year, \$1.18 million grant from the Paul B. Beeson Career Development Awards in Aging Research Program to help advance treatment of knee osteoarthritis and to reduce disability in older adults with this condition.

## Nursing Efforts Improve Elder Care in Iowa

Researchers in the UI College of Nursing are teaming up with staff members at long-term care facilities in eastern and northeast Iowa to address two common issues of older adults in health care facilities: pain management and incontinence.

UI gerontological nursing professor Janet Specht and her colleagues will determine the best educational techniques to help registered nurses and certified nurse aides use the most current knowledge to care for elders with pain and urinary incontinence.

## UI Researchers Make First Measurements of the Solar Wind Termination Shock

*Voyager 2*, a University-affiliated spacecraft launched in 1977 and now on its way out of the solar system, has made the first direct observations of the solar wind termination shock, according to two UI space physicists. The termination shock is where the solar wind, which continuously expands outward from the sun at over a million miles per hour, is abruptly slowed by interstellar gas.

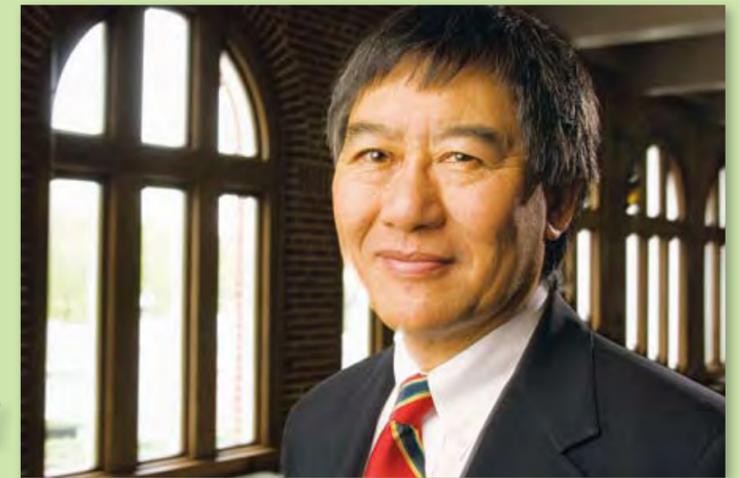
In a paper published in *Nature*, Don Gurnett, principal investigator for the spacecraft’s plasma wave instrument and a J.A. Van Allen/Roy J. Carver Professor of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Bill Kurth, a UI research scientist, say the UI instrument detected an intense burst of plasma wave turbulence.

The UI observations are expected to help physicists understand how cosmic rays, which are potentially hazardous to astronauts, are produced by the turbulent fields that exist in such shocks. Investigators note that a number of surprising observations made by *Voyager 2* will cause theories to be revised.

PHOTO BY TIM SCHOON

# Coming Back to Iowa

*New provost returns to a place of potential*



**W**allace Loh first set foot in Iowa more than 40 years ago, a college-bound teenager equipped with limited English and \$200 sewn into his jacket lining. Born in China and raised in Peru, he’d come to the United States to study on his own.

“The people I met were so friendly and generous,” he recalls. “My four years in Iowa had a lasting impact on my life.”

This summer Loh returned to a similar welcome, but with a very different purpose—becoming University of Iowa executive vice president and provost, the University’s chief academic officer.

For Loh, the job brings his career full circle. His early experiences in Iowa helped propel him into academia, law, and leadership.

“The idea of returning to Iowa, the place where I’d started my life in the United States, had real appeal,” Loh says. “As I learned more about the University, I felt there was a good fit in terms of what I care about—academic excellence, public service, and diversity.”

Those values inform Loh’s goals as provost, which include fostering a vibrant intellectual community that helps the University compete for top faculty and cultivating a diverse, globally connected campus.

Loh’s personal experience helped shape this perspective on education and globalization. His family sought asylum in Lima, Peru, at the close of the Chinese civil war, and once he graduated high school, Loh set his sights on college in the United States.

In a library in Lima, he found catalogs for only three colleges, two of them women’s schools. The third, Iowa Wesleyan College, offered him a scholarship.

He later transferred to Grinnell College, where he earned his bachelor’s degree and joined the Civil Rights Movement, traveling south with fellow students on voter registration drives. The experience spurred his interest in law, where he saw the opportunity to advance social change.

*“Those of us in administrative positions know it’s not what we do that matters—it’s what we inspire others to do that makes for progress.”*

But first he completed a PhD in psychology at the University of Michigan in 1970, then studied ethnic and religious conflict at the University of Louvain in Belgium. He earned a law degree from Yale in 1974.

Over the years that followed, Loh did legal work, taught at universities across the United States and in China, and became, as he puts it, an “accidental administrator.”

He was appointed dean at the University of Washington law school, then became vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Before returning to Iowa, he served as dean of arts and sciences at Seattle University.

Loh also worked as policy director for former Washington governor Gary Locke, an experience that broadened his perspective on higher education.

“I’ve a better appreciation of the public demand for expanding institutional accountability, student

access, and affordability,” he explains. “But I also believe, more than ever, that the public research university is a state’s best hope for the future.”

At Iowa, he says, campus and community embrace this service ethic. “There’s a sense of common unity and shared purpose here that’s stronger than at many other institutions, and this makes the University of Iowa a very special place,” he adds.

Loh wants to advance new programs that help students succeed and keep an Iowa education accessible and affordable. With that in mind, he and his wife, Barbara—whose great grandfather, Loh notes, emigrated from Scotland to Iowa—have established a scholarship fund for Iowa residents.

Above all, he wants to provide the academic leadership that keeps the University a resource for the state and the world. “Those of us in administrative positions know it’s not what we do that matters—it’s what we inspire others to do that makes for progress,” he says.

—LIN LARSON

**May 2, 2008** Above-average rainfalls increase Iowa River levels and put University officials on alert for flooding.

**May 6** The University's Critical Incident Management Team meets to discuss flooding potential in Mayflower Residence Hall and Hawkeye Court Apartments.

**June 3** Facilities Management and housing staff begin building a sandbag wall around Mayflower because of rising waters.

**June 5** The release rate from the Coralville Reservoir is increased, raising concern that it may reach the emergency spillway level for the first time since 1993. • Dubuque Street, a main campus artery, is closed.

**June 5-8** UI staff and volunteers build sandbag walls around the arts campus and other threatened buildings on the east and west sides of the Iowa River.

**June 9** All events and activities on the arts campus are suspended.

**June 9-11** The UI Museum of Art implements its disaster plan, preparing items to be transported off campus. Ninety-nine percent of the value of the collection is saved.

**June 10** The arts campus is evacuated. • The Coralville Reservoir tops the emergency spillway, and river levels are projected to exceed those of 1993.

**June 11** University officials shift their flood-control focus to buildings located south of Iowa Avenue.

**June 13** Levees around the arts campus are breached. • Summer session classes, events, and camps are suspended, and most employees are asked to stay home. • Volunteers form a book brigade to move books in the Main Library basement to higher levels.



## Protecting Sacred Ground

As the Iowa River swelled during the first week of June 2008, staff from Facilities Management worked around the clock to stay ahead of the floodwaters.

But they were exhausted and overwhelmed by the task of protecting a growing number of University of Iowa buildings. On June 6, a call for volunteers went out from by the Office of Student Life and UI Student Government. Within 30 minutes, hundreds of students showed up to help.

Throughout the next week, thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni, neighbors, and friends turned out to protect the

University, building sandbag walls and rescuing books, film, musical instruments, research, and much more.

"The volunteers overwhelmed and invigorated us," says Dave Jackson, assistant to the associate vice president for Facilities Management. "We absolutely couldn't have done this without the volunteers."

Guided by the University's Flood Emergency Response Plan—finalized in April 2007 for a 100-year flood, not a 500-year flood as this was—Jackson helped coordinate the efforts, showing volunteers how high to build the walls and organizing groups in locations

where the need was greatest. As new estimates showed the waters would rise further than previously expected, volunteers returned to build the walls higher.

At the UI Main Library, volunteers came by the hundreds when a call for help went out. Volunteers scrambled to rescue irreplaceable pieces of University history—bound copies of the *Daily Iowan*, the late James Van Allen's papers, records from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, even a collection of vintage Hawkeye game films.

Chains of students, faculty, staff, and friends snaked through the building's stairwells, passing delicate documents hand-to-hand, piece-by-piece, to higher ground. Meanwhile, teams shuttled carts loaded with boxes and cartons up freight elevators.

"It brought to mind the 1966 flood in Florence, Italy, when it seemed like half the country turned out to save the city's cultural treasures," says David McCartney, University archivist. "It was very moving to see this remarkable community support."

At the Voxman Music Building, School of Music staff moved all new or recently restored pianos off campus, as well as 20-25 older pianos weighing 600 to 1,000 pounds each. A group of students helped move faculty office equipment and several of the band and choral music libraries.

Throughout the volunteer effort, the atmosphere was festive at times. Old friends reunited; new friendships were



## Massive volunteer effort helps lessen flood's wrath

formed. Jackson, who jotted down many of the names on a battered clipboard he carried with him, noted the principal from a local school and his family, the UI Student Government president and the Faculty Senate president, men from nearby rural communities, and fraternity members. And there was the Iowa City contractor—whose own home had been destroyed by a tornado not long ago—who donated equipment and vehicles to help in the efforts.

At the sandbag camps, which were set up along Madison Street and in the

Clapp Recital Hall parking lot, natural leaders emerged, Jackson says. People of all ages observed the process, got the hang of it, and showed others what to do. Departments like athletics and student life were particularly valuable in leading the volunteer efforts, Jackson says, because building teamwork is part of their everyday roles.

"Everyone was really coming together to save the University," Jackson says. "It bordered on passion and obsession. They were protecting sacred ground."

—MADELAINE JEROUSEK-SMITH



Opposite page: Sandbag walls reached 9 feet high in some locations, while book brigades scrambled to save irreplaceable items from the Main Library's basement storage.

This page: Thousands of volunteers from the University, Iowa City, and neighboring communities flocked to Madison Street, fortifying the Main Library, Lindquist Center, and other nearby buildings—then filling another 500 tons of sandbags later donated to towns downstream.

**June 14** Thousands of volunteers help with sandbagging operations. • Main Power Plant is shut down. • Twelve buildings remain closed due to flooding. • Johnson County is declared a presidential disaster area.

**June 15** All possible areas on campus at risk of flooding are fortified, thanks to a tremendous volunteer effort. • Four more buildings are reported flooded, and utility systems remain the greatest challenge. • The Iowa River crests higher and sooner than expected. • The UI Foundation establishes a flood relief fund.

**June 16** Companies specializing in restoration and reconstruction begin recovery effort. • The power is restored to nine buildings, thanks to temporary boilers.

**June 17** A total of 20 buildings are reported flooded. • 250,000 unused sandbags are donated to communities downriver.

**June 19** President George W. Bush tours campus by helicopter.

**June 23** University operations resume, with many classes relocated.

**June 25** University officials announce arts courses will be offered as planned for the fall semester.

**July 3** Officials announce that Mayflower Residence Hall will be open and ready for move-in by Aug. 23, as originally planned.

**July 9** Main Library reopens.

**August 15** Several key buildings open for fall classes: Mayflower Residence Hall, the English-Philosophy Building, the Adler Journalism and Mass Communication Building, and the Becker Communication Studies Building.

**August 25** Fall classes resume. • The University continues efforts to reopen buildings, bring the Power Plant back online, and plan for future floods.



# Hawkeye Ingenuity

*Finding creative approaches to the University's short- and long-term recovery challenges*

rehearsal spaces, and musical groups are practicing and performing at churches and schools around town. And the Department of Theatre Arts is holding classes in leased space near downtown, while fall productions go on in performance spaces around Iowa City.

The show goes on for Hancher Auditorium's 2008-09 season, too, although the building remains closed. Broadway and dance events—which depend on a large stage and advanced technical capabilities—have been canceled or postponed, while 17 smaller events will be performed in venues around the campus and community. Regular programming will resume in January 2010.

"Hancher is more than a building," says Chuck Swanson, Hancher executive director. "We weren't going to let this flood stop us. That's where we got our theme for the coming year: 'Can't contain us.'"

The University of Iowa Museum of Art's collection was moved to storage facilities in Chicago during the flood. Because its riverside location is too risky for storing and displaying art in the future, the museum's plans are uncertain. But portions of the collection, including 250 prints, drawings, and photographs, were

returned to campus in October and are available for faculty, student, and class use while stored in the Main Library's Special Collections.

As various units adapt for the short term, campus leaders are turning their focus to the future, planning for a revitalized University that's stronger than ever.

"We can't fall into the trap of thinking that this is the worst possible scenario—many people thought that following the flood of 1993, and we saw that was false," Guckert says.

"We are a very complex campus and I would expect some very creative approaches to protecting ourselves against future threats. We're harnessing the interest, talent, and expertise of a number of individuals on this campus. We also want to work collaboratively with Iowa City and Coralville in developing mitigation strategies. In the end, I am confident that we will employ a myriad of solutions that will help us achieve the critical balance of both enjoying and protecting against a river that is the defining physical feature of our university."

*For continuing coverage of the University's recovery efforts visit [www.uiowa.edu/floodrecovery](http://www.uiowa.edu/floodrecovery).*

—MADELAINE JEROUSEK-SMITH

The scene at The University of Iowa was familiar as fall semester classes resumed in August. New students and families unloaded minivans outside of Mayflower Residence Hall. Students lined up for books and picked up new Hawkeye gear. They hurried to classes, attended Welcome Week events, and studied at the Main Library.

But while campus cleanup and recovery efforts are proceeding faster than expected after record summer flooding, parts of campus continue to recuperate.

Around many flood-affected buildings, tubes pumping warm, dry air snake out of doors. Inside, contractors work diligently to clean and repair damages.

The Iowa Memorial Union—the hub of student activity on a normal school day—remained closed through October. Much of the arts campus—including Art Building West, Voxman Music Building, and the Theatre Building—likely will be in recovery mode for the entire school year or longer.

Boilers at the UI Power Plant—which sustained about \$25 million in flood damage—returned to full operation in time to provide winter heating. But infrastructure repairs continue to demand tough choices and short-term solutions.

"Despite outward appearances, we are nowhere near normal operations here," says Don Guckert, associate vice president and director of Facilities Management. "Most of the hard work lies ahead. We feel good about our accomplishments so far, but we face a long road."

Arts classes have been spread among several locations. A former home improvement store in Iowa City, for example, was renovated over the summer to house most visual arts studios and faculty offices. The School of Music fitted two buildings near campus for



*A lot of drive, a little time, and, appropriately, a touch of creativity landed alternate homes for displaced arts programs. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (top left) and other local congregations opened their doors for organ lessons. Meanwhile, a former Menards store (above) was transformed into a unique collaborative space for studio art programs.*

## Medical Institute Makes Flood Donation

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute has contributed \$1 million to The University of Iowa and the Carver College of Medicine to help the biomedical research enterprise recover from the effects of the summer 2008 flood.

Despite escaping the floodwaters, the medical college—in particular the biomedical research community—was seriously affected by the shutting down of the UI Power Plant. The plant provides steam, which is essential for air conditioning and temperature control as well as autoclave operations and hot water production; these capabilities must be maintained to keep the research enterprise operational.

The contribution helps pay for a number of temporary systems that provide steam and chilled water to the Carver College of Medicine facilities on the west campus.



*Below: The Iowa River overtook north Riverside Drive on the arts campus, also swamping Mayflower Residence Hall (bottom left), lower City Park, and the Park Road Bridge near Hancher Auditorium. Above: Recovery began once the river crept back—temporary ducts and massive blowers dry buildings while crews scrub and strip anything touched by floodwater.*



*The UI Foundation created the UI Flood Relief Fund to support needs not covered by insurance or other resources. To learn more or make a gift, visit [www.uifoundation.org/2008-flood](http://www.uifoundation.org/2008-flood).*



## Making Educational Lemonade Out of Lemons

The flood of 2008 had many disastrous consequences throughout the region. But like true educators, faculty and staff members at The University of Iowa also saw it as an opportunity for learning and research.

For laboratories in engineering and hydrology, flood research is a natural. Among the many topics researchers hope to study are the movement and deposit of sediments and pollutants, flood warning systems, and the flood's effect on nutrient cycling in Mississippi backwaters. Collaborative efforts between colleges include a study on living with floods by members of both hydroscience and engineering and urban and regional planning, and another conducted by faculty members in geography, sociology, and education on the effects of severe flooding on public school students. Other studies will examine the mental health effects of the flood on those who suffered individual or work losses, compare air samples collected before the flood with those collected afterward, and assess the increase in patients seen during the flood in the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Emergency Treatment Center.

Susan Murty, associate professor of social work, saw the flood as an opportunity to expand on the University's emphasis on service learning: responding to real community needs while deepening students' understanding of academic material. To that end she developed a seminar in which students complete assigned readings related to disasters and disaster response, log flood relief volunteer hours, and write a paper and journals that reflect their experiences. "Students are interested and want to give back," says Murty.

James Throgmorton, professor of urban and regional planning, is teaching a course for first-year Honors students, Learning from the Flood. In addition to completing assigned readings and papers, students in this seminar hear from guest speakers with expertise in architecture, geology, facilities management, and more.



# War and Peace

## Learning from Angola's recovery and reconstruction

**H**ow do young generations find normalcy when all they know is two decades of war? How can exhuming the dead bring peace of mind to surviving relatives? Nanette Barkey's research in the war-ravaged nation of Angola explored those questions during the summer of 2007, primarily through interviews and observations that she used to create a

questionnaire geared toward discerning Angolans' present health concerns and levels of wellness. "How does a society pick up where things left off during the war?" asks Barkey, assistant professor of anthropology and community and behavioral health. "That process of culture change caught my attention when I first worked in Kuito in the mid-1990s."

Barkey's research, which was recently published in the journal *Human Organization*, took her to the city of Kuito, which was under siege for 18 months in 1993–94. All buildings sustained structural damage, and the city's utility infrastructure was destroyed. Nearly 20 percent of the city's population died during this period.

War erupted again in Angola in 1998. Peace was achieved in 2002, yet the price of war was evident: the dead were buried in graves scattered around the town. Today, hypertension and distress are prevalent among survivors. Also common are stroke, blindness, kidney failure, and diabetes—all related to hypertension.

But Barkey found that many Kuito residents are putting the past behind them. Bodies have been exhumed from backyard graves and given proper burial in a special cemetery. Churches are preaching forgiveness, which many younger Angolans find appealing.

"Many Angolans in their 20s and 30s are not dwelling on hatred, and they are going back to religion," Barkey says. "What's past is past—they see a time of being reborn."

Local government and international organizations have brought expertise in health, agriculture, and education, and new businesses are starting.

"They feel connected to the rest of the country, a part of the world," Barkey says. "At many points

in the last 15 years they felt isolated and that they had been forgotten."

Not only are Angolans feeling newly connected, but they are also able to tell their life stories through another aspect of Barkey's research. Her "photovoice" project involved giving eight women and four men disposable cameras and asking them to take pictures that represent their lives in present-day Kuito.

The photographs capture family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers taking part in a wide array of activities. Scenes at home, work, and church are prominent. People are shown participating in recreational activities or congregating in the streets. The photos don't shy away from capturing the effects of the war; reconstruction and growth are evident in the images.

The participants each picked six photos to be used in an exposition that will be presented in Kuito; Washington, D.C.; and Iowa City. The photographers shared with Barkey the problems and successes they encountered during the project, along with context and meaning behind the photographs they selected.

"Their pictures show lives that are returning to normal," Barkey says. "Rather than just being victims of war the participants were able to tell the rest of their story. They shared their perspective on the post-war recovery process."

—CHRISTOPHER CLAIR

Nanette Barkey (below) asked Angolans to document their world in pictures. Clockwise from top left: A ruined home awaits reconstruction (a family continues to occupy the ground floor). Neighborhood children in a scout troop head to church. Congregations like the "Church of Peace" play a central role in social life. Children carry their own chairs to class at a battle-scarred school. Paralyzed boys seek treatment at a clinic that also serves many Angolans who lost limbs to landmines.



## Age May Have Helped Obama, Hurt Clinton

Hillary Clinton may have had a better shot at the White House if she were younger, a University of Iowa study suggests.

Americans expect women to reach their peak performance as leaders at age 43, four years before men's perceived peak at age 47, the study found. They also believe women's contributions at work start to decline at 59.7, compared to age 61.3 for men.

Those expectations may have hurt Clinton, who was 60 during the primary season, but helped Barack Obama, who at the time was approaching the "ideal" leadership age of 47, says Michael Lovaglia, a sociologist in the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who led the study.

Results also showed that older, more educated individuals with high-powered careers prefer older bosses. For each year of the respondent's age, the ideal leadership age increased by one-sixth of a year. But at some point in their 50s, Lovaglia notes, respondents started to prefer a boss younger than them.

The study was a nationally representative online survey of 1,996 adults ranging in age from 18 to 92. To measure people's views on the ideal age of male and female leaders, researchers asked at what age men and women make the best boss at work.

## University Names Medicine, Public Health Deans

The University of Iowa has appointed new deans to the Carver College of Medicine and the College of Public Health.

Rheumatology expert Paul Rothman was named dean of the Carver College of Medicine, effective June 1. Rothman, who had served as professor and head of internal medicine in the college since 2004, earned his medical degree at the Yale University School of Medicine and completed his medical residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City. He succeeds Jean Robillard, who stepped down to focus on serving as UI vice president for medical affairs.

Susan J. Curry, previously the director of the Institute for Health Research and Policy and professor of health policy and administration in the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago, became dean of the College of Public Health on Aug. 1. Curry, who has done extensive research on smoking cessation and prevention, earned a doctorate from the University of New Hampshire before completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington.



## Results Are In

### Hawkeye Poll works to interpret voting tendencies

David Redlawsk and the American political process are not strangers, as his role as a delegate at the 2008 national Democratic convention shows. So it should come as no surprise that his political science courses provide students myriad opportunities for civic engagement.

Redlawsk, associate professor of political science at The University of Iowa, spearheaded a surveying effort to gather the "how" and interpret the "why" of Iowa voters' tendencies on political issues.

That effort, now known as the Hawkeye Poll, grew out of a strong tradition of survey work by Redlawsk's students, who for years have conducted exit polling at Johnson County voting sites. Caroline Tolbert, an associate professor of political science and departmental colleague, approached Redlawsk about expanding this survey capability, which led to about 100 of their students conducting a telephone survey in the spring of 2007 focusing on Iowa's first-in-the-nation presidential caucuses.

"We asked questions about race and gender, whether those factors would be problematic," says Redlawsk, who serves with Tolbert as Hawkeye Poll codirector. "Our data generated a profound media response, and it became clear we needed to build on that."

The Hawkeye Poll soon gained financial support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost, and political science students conducted political surveys during subsequent academic sessions. An Iowa-focused general election survey was conducted in the fall of 2008 and plans call for a policy-oriented poll in the spring of 2009.

The students' surveying capacity is not limited to political queries. Redlawsk has a large-scale project in the works to survey Chicago residents in lower-income neighborhoods about technology use and availability. Chicago

officials would use the data as they consider a wireless access program.

"We've developed the credibility to do this sort of project," he says. "Our students consistently rise to the challenge of doing quality work—I'm quite proud of them."

Once Redlawsk's students take to the phones to conduct their poll, they soon realize that the data are more than simple numbers—they represent the complex thoughts of real people.

"The students find themselves talking to people who are giving serious thought to the campaign—or in some cases people who give little thought to the process," Redlawsk says. "They then take these responses and aggregate them into something media friendly and research friendly—two very different things."

This work gives the students a much better understanding—and a healthy skepticism—of the polling they will consume in various media.

"I tell the students that by the time they're done, they might question all surveys, even ours," Redlawsk says. "They will see how hard it is to translate what responders are telling you into one of the predetermined set of answers."

There's more to Redlawsk's political teachings than polling. His Political Campaigning students had a unique learning opportunity during the first week of the fall semester, when Redlawsk was serving as a delegate at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. Redlawsk met with his class via web cam, and gave the students a taste of life on the convention floor through a blog, where he posted writings, photos, and video segments with ordinary and "celebrity" delegates.

"The students were required to follow the blog and provide responses to issues," Redlawsk says. "The basic goal was to connect students to the convention."

—CHRISTOPHER CLAIR

PHOTO BY TIM SCHOON

## Speedy Delivery



### Professor's research enhances disaster relief efforts

Hearing reports of delays in emergency supplies reaching the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami victims, Ann Campbell thought there must be a better way of getting relief to victims of disasters. Since then, the associate professor of management sciences in the Tippie College of Business has been researching relief logistics—how to get supplies to an area before and after disaster strikes. She is one of a few people in transportation logistics to do so.

"I became interested in relief logistics a few years ago because it was an area that I felt could make an impact on people's lives and which could help those in need," she says.

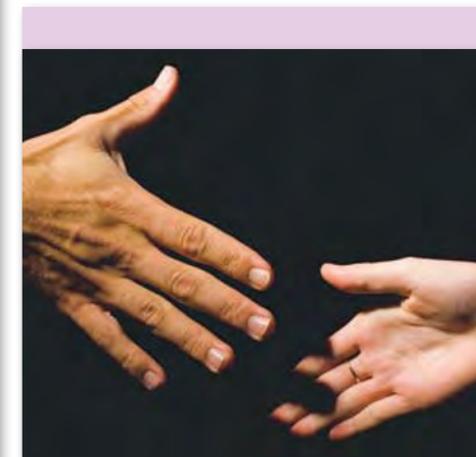
Relief logistics differs from humanitarian logistics, an area that logisticians recently have become more interested in. Humanitarian logistics focuses on the best way for nonprofits to deal with long-term problems, such as getting vaccines to remote populations, whereas relief logistics looks at how to mitigate disasters. The latter involves questions like: what supplies need to be stocked before and after a disaster, where would these supplies be located, and how can we take care of people faster after a disaster?

Unlike normal delivery networks, which are profit-driven, the design of a relief-logistic network is motivated by fairness—making sure everyone gets the same supplies at about the same time and at the same speed. It also considers constantly changing conditions—a breakdown in communication networks, for example, or roads that could become impassable.

"If your UPS package is really late, you maybe could complain and get your \$12.95 back," she says. "In relief logistics, it's not the same. For one thing, you're not paying for the service. It sort of changes the priority system a little."

—PO LI LOO

PHOTOS BY TIM SCHOON



### Getting a Firm Grip Key to Job Interviews

It's official: the handshake is as important as everyone says it is when looking for a new job.

Research by Greg Stewart, associate professor of management and organizations in the Tippie College of Business, confirms that a firm, solid handshake is an important part of a successful job interview, while a dead fish grip can end the interview before it even begins. More important than dress or physical appearance, the handshake seems to be a trigger that sets off an interviewer's overall impression of a candidate.

The study marks the first time researchers have quantified the importance of a good handshake in the job interview process. The research was conducted with 98 students in the Tippie College of Business who were participating in mock job interviews with representatives from Iowa City-area businesses. The students also met at various times during their interviews with five trained handshake raters who subtly introduced themselves and shook hands, but otherwise did not participate in the interviews.

The study found that those students who scored high with the handshake raters also were considered to be the most hireable by the interviewers. Stewart suspects that the handshake is important because it is one of the few things that provides a glimpse into a person's individuality during the first few minutes of an interview.

"We probably don't consciously remember a person's handshake or whether it was good or bad," Stewart says. "But the handshake is one of the first nonverbal clues we get about a person's overall personality, and that impression is what we remember."

Stewart's paper, coauthored with UI doctoral students Susan Dustin and Todd Darnold, as well as former UI professor Murray Barrick, was published in September in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*.

# The Pursuit of “Hotness”

Professor’s research offers caring adults a way to help children analyze media messages

Gigi Durham has been featured in *People* magazine. She’s advised moms and daughters on Fox’s *The Morning Show with Mike and Juliet*. She’s done a stint on Martha Stewart Living Radio.

These are not typical media outlets for University professors discussing their academic research. But for Durham, the interest from mainstream media was just what she’d hoped for.

“I wrote the book so that it would be accessible, and the reception has been great,” says Durham, a professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. “I’m getting letters from moms and dads who appreciate the strategies I suggest.”

The book is *The Lolita Effect: The Media Sexualization of Young Girls and What We Can Do About It* and the strategies are concrete suggestions for helping young girls and boys deal with the Lolita Effect, defined by Durham as the increasing sexualization of ‘tween girls (between the ages of 8 and 12) in pop culture and advertising. The trend is fueled by marketers’ efforts to create cradle-to-grave customers. *The Lolita Effect* is based on Durham’s 13 years of research.

That research had its genesis during Durham’s graduate school years at the University of Florida, where she worked with sexual assault and recovery services. As her awareness of violence against women grew, she became curious about the implications of our culture’s obsession with fashion and beauty, and at what age that begins. Durham turned her attention to media aimed at middle school girls, like *Seventeen* and *YM* magazines.

What she found was a focus on fashion and beauty that operated within very narrow parameters.

“The emphasis is on a thin, voluptuous, Barbie-doll look,” Durham says. “It’s a look that’s nearly impossible to achieve, so girls become dissatisfied with their own bodies.” Durham also notes that media aimed at young girls constantly emphasize looking “hot” and appealing to boys, but provide very little information about the facts of sex. As part of her research, Durham talked directly with middle school students and learned that many rely on media for sexual information, and many remain “frighteningly ignorant” about sex.

“Here are some things I’ve learned from talking to girls,” says Durham in the first chapter of *The Lolita Effect*. “You can’t get pregnant if you jump up and down



after intercourse...

You don’t need to use contraception if you don’t have sex very often. If you haven’t gotten AIDS after having sex a lot, you are immune to it...”

Unlike some who criticize the sex-saturated environment in which we live, Durham acknowledges that children are sexual beings and that there can and should be a natural, healthy progression of sexuality. But, she notes, because children are bombarded daily with sexual messages that aren’t in their best interests—she cites as examples Abercrombie and Fitch’s thong underwear for ten-year-olds adorned with the phrases “Eye Candy” and “Wink, Wink” and toy manufacturer Tesco’s pink plastic Peekaboo Pole Dancing kit—it’s up to adults to help kids understand sex.

“It’s like driving; you wouldn’t stick your child in a car and say ‘Go!’” she says. “We teach them the traffic rules. Sex has rights, responsibilities, and risks, and we need to help children manage the tricky terrain.”

That terrain is fraught with images created by savvy advertisers, who are tapping into the increasingly well-to-do market of ‘tween girls. The narrow vision of beauty not only creates dissatisfaction with one’s looks, but also encourages the purchase of products to help one fit the norm. And the dissatisfaction creates lifelong customers for companies who use younger and younger models to promote their products. When the sexual ideal becomes a 13-year-old girl, what hope does a mature woman have of ever achieving it?

No matter our intentions, it’s nearly impossible to escape these media messages. That’s why Durham suggests teaching children media literacy from a young age: helping them recognize and analyze the motives behind fashion features that use sexually charged pop icons like Paris Hilton to promote body-baring clothing

and articles like “100 Ways to Look Beautiful” that are written to sell products. Durham also encourages girls to produce their own media—techno-savvy kids can use video cameras and editing tools to create their own age-appropriate messages. And she cites web sites and magazines that promote a girl-friendly vibe.

Sharing her research outside of academia has always been a goal for Durham, and she came to Iowa in part because of its reputation as a place where good writing matters. The opportunity to spend a semester at the University’s Obermann Center for Advanced Studies also furthered her work.

“It’s a great community,” she says. “Faculty and staff members shared their perspectives on the journal articles and book proposal I wrote during that semester. Their input was invaluable.” Durham is serving as the associate faculty director at the Obermann Center this fall, supporting other faculty members in their research endeavors.

Durham continues to teach journalism classes and sees the results of the Lolita effect in her own students. She once asked students to raise their hands if they knew someone with an eating disorder, one that presumably was brought on by dissatisfaction with their body.

“Every hand went up,” says Durham. She finds that many students have never thought about or had a way to critically discuss the media images they’ve seen all their lives. She’d like media literacy to become commonplace, “as important as math and reading,” in K-12 curriculums and hopes her book will help adults open a dialogue with children.

“My research has shown me that parents are extremely influential,” she says. “Even 13-year-olds admitted to me that they heard what their moms said to them.”

—LINZEE KULL MCCRAY



PHOTO BY TIM SCHOON

# ’Til Death Do Us Part

Learning to navigate bumps in the marital road



How do couples drift from a promise of “I do” to a declaration of “I don’t”?

Erika Lawrence, assistant professor of psychology in the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is trying to find out. She studies newlyweds and the hitches that hinder their happiness.

The first five years are crucial in a marriage, Lawrence says, and the frequency of failure is disheartening.

“The rate of divorce for first marriages has been at 40 percent for the last decade or two,” she says. “My goal is to better understand how couples go from being really happy and wanting to spend their lives together to divorce or severe, unremitting distress. Are there ways to predict outcomes?”

Recent research by Lawrence has shed light on some early tribulations in marriage: parenthood and physical aggression. One study showed that newlywed couples—defined in the study as those in their first four years of marriage—who become parents experience a higher drop in marital satisfaction in their first year of parenthood than those who delay expanding their family.

“Adjusting to an infant is extremely difficult for couples, but most recover,” she says. “In fact, the stronger the marriage is before parenthood, the better the chances are of recovering after.”

Lawrence recruited 156 couples in their first six months of marriage—104 became parents within four years and 52 remained childless—and had the parent couples respond to marital satisfaction surveys after six months of marriage, a month before the baby’s birth, and six and 12 months postpartum. Childless couples were surveyed at comparable times.

In a separate study of aggression, Lawrence surveyed 164 couples annually during their first three years of marriage.

She found that 29 percent are physically aggressive—including pushing, grabbing, and shoving—and that wives are more likely to be aggressive than husbands.

“I was surprised at how common it is for new couples to engage in some sort of physical activity, and it’s not play wrestling—it’s during an argument,” explains Lawrence, noting that the study did not include battered women who feared for their safety.

The study also found that aggressive husbands typically are married to aggressive wives, while nonaggressive husbands are likely to have nonaggressive wives; husbands’ aggression has a more negative effect on marital satisfaction, but couples in which the wives are aggressive are more likely to divorce; and aggressive couples were aggressive at the start of their marriage, rather than after marital distress.

Early intervention, Lawrence suggests, may help marriages last longer and lead couples to have more satisfying relationships. She currently is designing a series of workshops to teach couples skills they can use to become better partners.

Most therapists, she says, focus on conflict management and fail to inquire about other important aspects of a relationship—like how the partners support one another when one has a bad day, or how they communicate their own needs.

“Many different aspects contribute to a fulfilling relationship. Fortunately, certain skills are teachable,” she says. “The trick is to teach them early, when couples are happy—and motivated to stay that way. After years, it is harder to let down your guard and put these skills into practice.”

—SARA EPSTEIN MONINGER

## Owning a Home Doesn’t Necessarily Benefit Families

The American dream of owning a home may not be that much of a benefit for kids and families after all, according to a UI study.

Home ownership has virtually no impact on several measures of child welfare, including high school graduation rates, behavior, and math and reading test scores, the study shows, contradicting earlier studies that claim a correlation.

David Barker, adjunct professor of real estate and finance in the Tippie College of Business, used information from several sources, including a recently released U.S. Department of Education database called the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, to test the hypothesis that home ownership has beneficial effects on children.

He found that while such factors as family wealth, race, divorce, death of

a parent, mobility, and even vehicle ownership showed effects on child welfare measurements, home ownership did not.

His argument contradicts a general belief that home ownership is inherently good, a way of thinking that was behind the push to create an “ownership society” earlier this decade. One consequence of the push to increase home ownership rates, Barker says, was that some people who could not afford homes were encouraged to buy anyway, and lenders were encouraged to give them mortgages. That inflated a real estate bubble that, now burst, has forced millions of homeowners into foreclosure and is dragging down the economy.

The study, “Homeownership and Child Welfare,” was published in *Real Estate Economics*.



PHOTO BY TIM SCHOON

# A Refreshing Idea

Engineering students' water sanitizer lands EPA funding

Some years ago, Craig Just traveled to Guatemala and saw the scarcity of drinking water, the unsafe living conditions, the utter poverty.

That trip and others inspired Just, associate research engineer in the University of Iowa College of Engineering, to create a service-learning course called Design for the Developing World. His course, in turn, has inspired students from engineering and other fields to devote their talents to improving water, sanitation, energy, shelter, and food.

Just's projects have students cooking with solar ovens, designing easily assembled refugee shelters, and developing a handheld water sanitizer that would disinfect drinking water for impoverished communities around the world. This last project has yielded national recognition and additional research funding for Just's students.

"The projects in Design for the Developing World are all done with the mindset that technology isn't enough," Just says. "In many places, people truly rely on a sustainable environment for their livelihood."

Just and a team of four students—engineering majors Aaron Gwinnup, Alexandra Keenan, and Tom Rhoads, and urban and regional planning graduate student Joel Donham—took their idea for a water sanitizer to Washington, D.C., for the National Sustainable Design Expo in April. This competition encourages college students to solve environmental problems by developing sustainable technological solutions that are environmentally friendly, efficient, and economical.

The handheld sanitizer project began when College of Engineering alumnus John Hayes brought a municipal-scale electrolytic chlorine generator to Just's class. Hayes was taking it to developing countries to provide bleach for drinking water. The students were impressed, yet felt they could improve upon the large-scale model.

"The students wrote a proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to get what's called Phase I funding," Just says. "They received \$10,000 to develop a chlorine generator with a different focus."

The funding was used to continue study of the sanitizer during the 2007 offering of Design for the Developing World. The students came up with a more accessible and sustainable version of the sanitizer. It is sized for individual households and works on a hand crank rather than batteries—a key aspect when considering the resources in poor countries.

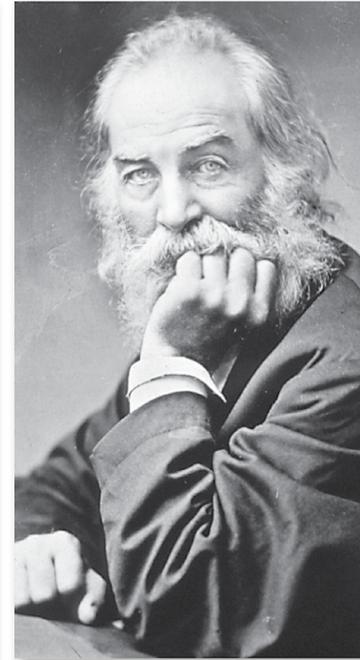
The UI team was one of just six teams honored at the competition, which yielded an additional \$75,000 in EPA funding to further develop the project.

"We hope to multiply the \$75,000 award tenfold in the coming year so we can make a substantial human health impact in our target countries," Just says.

Just, who recently received the UI Provost and President's Award for Teaching, embraces this mentoring and networking role in the College of Engineering. He aims to embed one eastern Iowa professional engineer within each of his student design teams. And students who seek guidance from Just have plenty of opportunities: he advertises his office hours as "almost unlimited."

"My courses go beyond the traditional classroom experience," Just says. "I get the chance to travel with my students to poor countries, live dormitory-style in harsh conditions. You get to know people through those situations. I admire these students so much for what they do."

—CHRISTOPHER CLAIR



## Professor, Alum Featured in PBS Whitman Program

English professor Ed Folsom and Iowa Writers' Workshop graduate Allan Gurganus (MFA '75) were featured in a PBS *American Experience* documentary on poet Walt Whitman. Folsom, a well-known Whitman scholar and professor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was involved with the documentary for five years, contributing six hours of interviews and helping to edit the script. Gurganus, author of *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* and *Plays Well with Others*, writes essays, stories, and novels.

A related web site is at [www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/whitman/poet](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/whitman/poet).

## Center to Enhance Rural Health Care for Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Rural Health has given a five-year, \$10 million grant to the Iowa City Veterans Affairs Medical Center to establish the VA Midwest Rural Health Resource Center.

Peter J. Kaboli, associate professor of internal medicine in the Carver College of Medicine and staff physician at the Iowa City VA center, will direct the new resource center.

The grant will support new initiatives to enhance health care delivery to rural veterans and to close gaps in quality and access to care that may result from geographic isolation faced by rural veterans.

## UI Team Helps Shed Light on Schizophrenia

University of Iowa researchers contributed to a study that found a particular genetic variation is associated with schizophrenia. The severe mental health disorder affects nearly 1 percent of people in the United States.

The study, published online in the journal *Nature Genetics*, was led by researchers at Cardiff University in the United Kingdom. Two other research groups simultaneously published separate findings that identified three genetic variations and confirmed a previously known variation, all associated with schizophrenia.

The Iowa study examined DNA samples and thorough background information from 336 persons with schizophrenia.

Previous investigations have not involved such large sample sizes as the three new studies did, and taken together, they provide strong evidence that schizophrenia may result from interactions of large stretches of DNA on multiple locations in an individual's genome, says Donald W. Black, principal investigator for the UI site and professor of psychiatry in the Carver College of Medicine.

## Fruit Flies Help Understanding of Bacterial Infections

Sometimes it may be a good idea to "shoot the messenger."

University of Iowa researchers and colleagues have shown that destroying a messenger molecule used by the bacterium *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (*P. aeruginosa*) protects against infection-related death in fruit flies.

The research team, led by Joseph Zabner, professor of internal medicine in the Carver College of Medicine, used fruit flies to learn more about *P. aeruginosa*, which is a major cause of infections in individuals who are hospitalized, have burn wounds, or have cystic fibrosis. The research, published in the online edition of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, suggests that the bacterium's cell-to-cell signaling system is key to its ability to cause disease.

Furthermore, the researchers showed that a human protein, which can degrade the messenger molecule, interferes with the communication system and significantly reduces the bacterium's virulence.

The research may have important implications in the development of new, non-antibiotic therapies against bacterial infections.

## Stepping Up World Bank's Accountability

A UI international development expert and a College of Law graduate have proposed a new method of holding the World Bank accountable when its development projects damage communities in developing countries.

The proposal, coauthored by law professor Enrique Carrasco and law alumna Alison K. Guernsey (JD '08), suggests creating an independent mediation and arbitration process. This would replace the bank's current Inspection Panel, which has come under considerable criticism since its inception.

Formed after World War II, the World Bank helps developing countries build their economies by providing financing and advice to, among other things, construct the kinds of public infrastructure countries couldn't afford on their own, such as dams, highways, and power plants. The bank often has been criticized, though, for financing projects that harmed people or communities in the country where the project was being built.

## Former Dean Leaves More Than \$2 Million in Gifts for UI

Capping seven decades of service and generosity to the University, Dewey Stuit, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1948 to 1977, left a gift to the UI Foundation of more than \$2 million. Stuit died Jan. 9, 2008.

The gift added to funds created by Stuit and his late wife, Velma. They provide scholarships for CLAS and Honors Program students, professorship support for the Department of Psychology, and discretionary funds for the Museum of Art, the departments of psychology, religious studies, and theatre arts, the School of Art and Art History, and the School of Music.

## Gift Benefits New College of Public Health Building

A \$2 million grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust of Muscatine, Iowa, will help construct the first permanent home for the UI College of Public Health.

The 130,000-square-foot facility, will consolidate the college's academic,

administrative, and student-related functions, currently located in 15 different buildings on and off campus. The \$47.7 million building, financed by state funding, University revenue bonds, private gifts, and federal appropriations, will be completed in late 2010.

## Institute Aims to Spread Awareness of Assistive Technology

Students with disabilities in Iowa—and those who help them learn—had an opportunity to benefit from the latest technological advancements available during the first annual Assistive Technology Summer Institute, sponsored in July by the Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research in the College of Education.

Teachers, speech pathologists, students with disabilities, parents, and counselors from across the state came to campus to get hands-on experience using a variety of software programs that increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.



## UI Press Book Documents Small-Town Iowa Life

*After Church at Grandpa's* is one of the images featured in *Sunday Afternoon on the Porch: Reflections of a Small Town in Iowa, 1939–1942*, published by the University of Iowa Press in June. The book combines recently discovered images by amateur photographer Everett W. Kuntz and text by writer Jim Heynen. Kuntz, a native of Ridgeway in northeast Iowa, took the photographs of his hometown after graduating from high school, but shelved more than 2,000 negatives when he married and started a family; he rediscovered them shortly before he died in 2003. Heynen, author of *The Boys' House*, blended fact and fiction to craft accompanying vignettes of Ridgeway life. More information is available at [www.uiowapress.org](http://www.uiowapress.org).